

Book Reviews

This anthology is most welcome and can be enthusiastically recommended to those who wish to know more of Japanese science in order to achieve a more complete, international coverage of the history of science. Moreover and more importantly, the opportunity of observing a different approach to science, whereby problems that also exercise the West are tackled from a different angle, is of great significance to the modern occidental scientist. Hopefully he may discover new and useful viewpoints. The book is also of value to all historians of science in view of the general papers included, which display fresh points of view. In the next series of essays perhaps it will be possible to include some on the history of medicine.

LISA JARDINE, *Francis Bacon. Discovery and the art of discourse*, London, Cambridge University Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. viii, 267, £4.90 (\$15.50).

Most interpretations of Francis Bacon have judged him to be a man of the seventeenth century who revealed in his writings the approaching scientific revolution. However, Dr. Jardine believes him to be a Renaissance man, and in order to understand him properly his thought must be examined against a background of sixteenth-century ideas. Her arguments in favour of this are stimulating and convincing, and her scholarship and accumulated data, together with a pleasing style, have resulted in an important book.

In his youth Bacon was greatly influenced by the dialectical tradition and it is the author's task first to examine it closely and then to use this background to discover, if it exists, a central theme in his diverse works. He wrote on scientific method, practical science, law, pedagogic theory, English history, myth interpretation, and he occasionally published literary work. In the past these have usually been thought to be isolated from one another, but Dr. Jardine discovers a common thread: the central organizing role of *method* which included investigatory procedures to reveal new knowledge (*discovery*), and procedures for selecting and arranging information to be used for communication and instruction (*art of discourse*). This interpretation introduces a consistency into his writings, and, for example, one can equate his inductive method with the structure and strategies of his books dealing with ethics, politics, literature and history.

As an excellent presentation of Bacon's sixteenth-century roots this book is most valuable. However, it cannot be denied that he went beyond his dialectical forms of thought and his sources in presenting the new natural philosophy. Dr. Jardine is less successful in explaining why he was so influential in the advancement of science long after his death.

L. L. LANGLEY (editor), *Homeostasis. Origins of the concept*, Stroudsburg, Penn., Dowden, Hutchinson & Ross, 1973, 8vo, pp. xi, 362, illus., £11.40.

The publishers have initiated a praiseworthy series in which they will "... publish the original writings in a variety of fields which developed an important concept..." The author of this contribution to the project and its editor, is a physiologist. He has selected twenty-two extracts, ranging from a paper published by Charles Blagden (1748–1820) in 1775 entitled, 'Experiments and observations in an heated room',